

My name is Wallace Arney, and I chose to live in Dillon, MT because it the first place I was able to get the mental health care I've need all my life. After nearly 40 years in the prison system, I am sober and free. I walk everywhere, and I visit with just about everyone I meet. But I always say I'm just one pill away from being back inside. I had a case worker, a therapist, and a psychiatrist to get me on my feet and help me understand that I can be a contributing member of society.

I lost all that when the funding was pulled in January. I am considered "high functioning" so they have asked me to talk for the community. We, the mental ones, have had to find a way to support each other. We meet and share on the streets with each other. Our town is lucky in two ways - one, the people of Beaverhead county are so supporting and go out of their way to help all they can, and two, the mental population have been working each day to reach out and help each other all we can. Those who need mental health have told me they need help completing forms and making phone calls and getting information about how to find ways to live a somewhat normal life.

Through this we are bonding and working together to help all in need in our little spot of home we call southwestern montana. We just want a little professional help in our neighborhood.

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